Erection of wind mills in Tamil Nadu

1401. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects selected for erection of wind mills in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the quantum of electricity likely to be generated at these projects;

(c) whether any new site has been identified in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) A wind power capacity of 3700MW has already been installed in the State of Tamil Nadu upto September, 2007 in locations lying mostly in Palghat, Shengottah, and Aralvoimozhi passes. About 300MW capacity Wind Power Projects is likely to be added in the State upto March, 2008.

(b) Total quantum of electricity likely to be generated is about 26 Billion Units from these projects.

(c) and (d) New Wind Power Projects have been planned in Theni Circle of Theni District in Tamil Nadu.

Production of bio-diesel

1402. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made by Government for production of Bio-diesel in the country;

(b) the progress made in this regard;

(c) whether the target fixed for the purpose has been achieved;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the target fixed for the next financial year, State-wise.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NE WAND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The Government of India has given top priority for promotion and use of bio-fuels, which includes bio-diesel and bio-ethanol. Considering the importance of promotion and use of bio-fuels for transportation, stationary and other applications, the Government of India has issued a Notification in July, 2006 giving specific responsibilities to various Union Ministries and Departments. The Government emphasis use of non-edible oils such as Jatropha curcas, Pongamia pinnata oils, etc. for production of bio-diesel and use of forest & non-forest wastelands for plantation of non-edible oil seed bearing plants.

The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy has sponsored R&D projects on bio-fuels to some leading R&D Institutions. Process parameters for production of bio-diesel from Jatropha curcas (Ratanjot) and Pongamia pinnata (Karanja) have been optimized; field trials on diesel car have been carried out with different levels of blend of bio-diesel produced from Jatropha and Pongamia with diesel. The vehicle response has been found to be comparable with diesel vehicles. A200 liter capacity per batch bio-diesel reactor has been designed, fabricated

and developed. The MNRE has prepared a Draft National Policy on Bio-fuels, which is under consideration of Government of India.

The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) has provided financial support to nine States in 2005-06 for raising of about 18 crore seedlings of Jatropha and Pongamia and to 18 States in 2006-07 for raising of another about 18 crore seedlings of these plants. The proposal of the MoRD for establishment of the National Mission on Bio-diesel and launch of its demonstration phase (Phase-I) is under consideration of Government of India.

Department of Bio-Technology has initiated a Micro-mission programme on production and demonstration of superior quality planting material of Jatropha based on oil content of 30-35% and seed yield of 3-5 tonnes per hectare. They have raised 22.48 lakh plants under nursery at different places and have initiated R&D projects for improvement of oil quality and seed yield and identification of superior varieties.

The Ministry of Agriculture through National Oil Seeds and Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD) Board is promoting Jatropha and Pongamia under the Scheme of Integrated Development of Tree borne oil seeds. The NOVOD Board has undertaken model plantation of Jatropha in about 10,000 hectare area and Karanja in about 1400 hectare area for producing parent material for undertaking large scale plantation. NOVOD Board have identified elite planting material of Jatropha and Pongamia under their R&D programme and have preserved the germ plasm. Besides, NOVOD Board has sanctioned model plantation of Jatropha in 1445 hectare and Karanja in 55 hectare during 2007-08.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), under All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on agro-forestry, have initiated efforts in respect of Jatropha for collection of germ plasm, evaluation trials for growth, seed yield and oil content, hybridization, reproductive biology, agri-silvicultural trials, molecular characterization, biochemical activities and farmers training. ICAR has identified a Jatropha variety for commercial cultivation.

(c) to (e) Presently, the activities initiated by the Government are concentrating on research & development for development of superior quality planting materials and bio-diesel production technologies, testing of diesel engines using bio-diesel and their demonstration, etc. Targets are, therefore, not fixed.

Assistance to Darjeeling Hill Area for renewable energy

1403. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received a request from West Bengal to declare hills of Darjeeling as a special category area, allowing the Central financial assistance for renewable energy programmes in line with other States of Himalayan region; and

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Such a proposal was received from the West Bengal Government but was not accepted. However, the Government has conveyed its commitment to extend 90 per cent subsidy under the Remote Village Electrification programme to all remote villages including those in the State of West Bengal.